

S/N unknown

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GOHLKE et al. Serial No.: unknown
Filed: concurrent herewith Docket No.: 13692.2US01
Title: APPARATUS FOR REFINING GLASS IN A FURNACE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

'Express Mail' mailing label number: EL913562755US

Date of Deposit: 31 August 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: 

Name: Omesh Singh

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims as indicated below. A marked-up copy of all claims is attached for reference.

3. (amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the porous body 2 is disk- or plug-shaped.

4. (amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized through the following features:

- 4.1 the porous body (2) is sleeve-shaped;
- 4.2 the porous body (2) can be installed in a purification vessel (1) such that it protrudes into the molten mass;

20250831 14:54:50

4.3 the porous body (2) connectable with its one end to the pressure source, while its other end is closed.

5. (amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of porous material.

6. (amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) displays a lattice, mesh, grid, or grating structure.

7. (amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of ceramic material.

9. (amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of a metal.

11. (amended) Device according to claim 9, characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) can be electrically heated.

12. (amended) Arrangement for purifying molten glass;
12.1 with a purification vessel;
12.2 with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external pressurized-gas source as well as for introducing the gas bubbles into the molten mass;
12.3 the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body (2) according to claim 1

13. (amended) Device and method for purifying molten gas according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that used as the bubbling gas is oxygen.

14. (amended) Device and method for purifying molten gas according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that used as the bubbling gas is helium.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

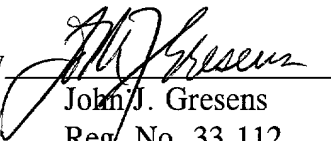
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 31 August 2001

JJG/kjr

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS

3. Device according to claim 1[or 2], characterized by the fact that the porous body 2 is disk- or plug-shaped.

4. Device according to claim 1[or 2], characterized through the following features:

- 4.1 the porous body (2) is sleeve-shaped;
- 4.2 the porous body (2) can be installed in a purification vessel (1) such that it protrudes into the molten mass;
- 4.3 the porous body (2) connectable with its one end to the pressure source, while its other end is closed.

5. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 4], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of porous material.

6. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 4], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) displays a lattice, mesh, grid, or grating structure.

7. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 4], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of ceramic material.

9. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 6], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of a metal.

11. Device according to claim 9[or 10], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) can be electrically heated.

12. Arrangement for purifying molten glass;

- 12.1 with a purification vessel;
- 12.2 with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external pressurized-gas source as well as for introducing the gas bubbles into the molten mass;

12.3 the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body (2) according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 11].

13. Device and method for purifying molten gas according to claim[s] 1[through 11], characterized by the fact that used as the bubbling gas is oxygen.

14. Device and method for purifying molten gas according to claim[s] 1[through 11], characterized by the fact that used as the bubbling gas is helium.